

Nora/Krogstad

KROGSTAD: Excuse me, Mrs. Helmer.

NORA: My husband isn't here, Mr. Krogstad.

KROGSTAD: I know.

NORA: Well, what do you want then?

KROGSTAD: A word with you.

NORA: Today? But it's not the first of the month yet.

KROGSTAD: No. It's Christmas Eve. And it's up to you how merry it's going to be.

NORA: What do you want? I can't spare anything today.

KROGSTAD: Let's talk about that later. This is about something else. Perhaps you could spare a minute.

NORA: Well...yes...I can...but...

KROGSTAD: Good. You see, I just saw your husband going down the street...

NORA: Well?

KROGSTAD: With a lady.

NORA: Yes, and?

KROGSTAD: Mrs. Helmer, would you be good enough to use your influence on my behalf?

NORA: What are you talking about?

KROGSTAD: Would you be so kind to see that I don't lose my position at the bank?

NORA: What do you mean? Who wants to take away your position?

KROGSTAD: Oh, you don't have to pretend with me. I'm sure your friend is not particularly keen to come into contact with me again. And I quite understand whom I'll have to thank if I'm dismissed.

NORA: But I promise you—

KROGSTAD. I'm sure you do. But the point is, I think it's time for you to use your influence to make sure that doesn't happen.

NORA: But Mr. Krogstad, I don't have any influence!

KROGSTAD: Oh, I don't think your husband is any less...susceptible...than other husbands.

NORA: If you speak disrespectfully of my husband, I'll show you the door.

KROGSTAD: That's very bold, Mr. Helmer.

NORA: I'm not afraid of you anymore. After the New Year I'll be finished with the whole thing.

KROGSTAD: Now you listen to me, Mrs. Helmer. If I have to, I'll fight for my little job at the bank as if I were fighting for my life.

NORA: I can see that.

KROGSTAD: It's not just the money. In fact, that's the least of it. It's something else...out with it! You are probably aware—like everybody else—that some time ago I...I made an unfortunate mistake.

NORA: I've heard something about that.

KROGSTAD: It never went to trial. But after that, every door has been closed to me. I had to turn to the kind of business that brought us together. One has to live. But I want to be done with all that. My sons are growing up. I have to get my reputation back for their sake. This job at the bank is the first step up the ladder. And now your husband is going to kick me back down into the mud.